NUMB. LXIII.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

——— Aliena Negotia Centum
Per caput, & circumſaliunt latus. ——— HOR.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26. 1724.

INTENDED, in this *PAPER*, to have proceeded upon ſome further Hints concerning *EDUCATION*: But I am forced to break off the Thread of that Diſcourſe, and defer it to another Day, to give Room to the following *LETTER*, which requires Diſpatch. I have likewiſe many entertaining *LETTERS* by me from *Edinburgh*, and *Bath*; and two, that I muſt particularly mention from *Covent-Garden*, with Relation to my late Diſcourſe on the *Play-Houſe Management*; One of which is written by Mr. *Sock* the *Comedian*, in a mighty *ſorrowful* and *lamentable* Stile, and the other by Mr. *Buskin* the *Tragedian*, filled with ſuch Heroick *Rants* and *Menaces*, that, if they excite not *Terror*, will as well anſwer the *End* of being exhibited to publick View; like ſome *Modern Tragedies*, by not failing to give *Diverſion* to my *Readers*, as they did to my ſelf. All theſe I ſhould be glad to oblige the *Publick* with, as ſoon as poſſible; but they muſt at preſent give way to the following EPISTLE, which ſeems intended to Redreſs, in ſome Meaſure, an injured Perſon, whoſe good Character ſome malignant People are unluckily diſpoſed to Diſtreſs; and I could not but think it a Part of Duty to quit all other Speculations, though never ſo inviting, where it might lie in my Power to *aid*, and *aſſiſt*, towards reſcuing an honeſt, worthy Man, either out of any *real*, or even *imaginary* Diſtreſs, ſince the *latter* is often *equally* painful with the *former*.

To the PLAIN DEALER.

SIR,

" IN One of your PAPERS concerning DETRACTION, you juſtly obſerved, " That the Perſons guilty of it, in a great *City*, " ought to have ſome *Diſtinguiſhing Signs* to diſcover " them, as Croſſes are placed on the Doors of the " *Diſeaſed*, in the Time of a Peſtilence.

" THAT happy Way of Reaſoning (inſeperable " from Truth) which ſtrongly ſhines in all your Writ- " ings, on whatſoever *Subject* employed, carries Con- " viction in every Line, that gives the *Good Man* " Pleaſure, and the *Envious* and *Detracting*, Pain.

" THEN to whom, or where, ſhall I apply for " Redreſs, when I ſee *Merit* patiently ſuffer the " greateſt Injuries, and Matters of Fact miſrepre- " ſented (in Words that ſhew, *Slander* requires *Scur- " rility* for its *Support*) but to the *PLAIN DEALER*, " who, above flattering the Great, thinks it not un- " worthy him, to do injured *Merit* Juſtice, in Per- " ſons of *Lower* Rank?

" WAS I to draw the Man I mean, in the Cha- " racter of *Husband*, *Father*, or *Friend*, in each, and " every one, he would pleaſe the *Great*, the *Good*, and " *Juſt*; but as thoſe diſtinguiſhing Characters, are at " once both Private and Undiſputed, I will beg leave " to tell you, He has in *Active* Life acquired a *Fame*, " that gives Uneaſineſs to ſome malignant People, " while it gives Pleaſure, and does Good to all the " World beſide.

" IF the moſt indefatigable Induſtry, with his (in " Spight of Envy) allowed *Knowledge* and *Skill*, ad- " ded to as great *Tenderneſs* and *Humanity*, as ever " filled a Generous Breaſt, and crowned by the Bleſ- " ſing of the *ALMIGHTY*, with un-interrupted Suc- " ceſs, ever made a Man Deſervedly Eſteemed in the " Profeſſion of *Surgery*, you will find, I mean Mr. " *Coltheart*. Methinks I ſee him now (as I have of- " ten ſeen him) going to the Relief of ſome miſe- " rable Object, who is one Way or other become Un- " happy, with his uſual Chearfulneſs and becoming " Smiles (with that Regard however to the Cauſe, " as the Greateſt could wiſh for, the Unhappy ſeldom " meet with) as if he was going to ſome Great Man, " the effecting of whoſe Cure muſt make his Fortune; " though he is certain to have no other than the Pray- " ers and Thanks of the (without him) undone " Man.

" INNUMERABLE

[Price Two Pence.]

" INNUMERABLE Inſtances of this Kind (would " his Modeſty permit) the Grateful Many he has ſo " ſerved, won'd give you, who, tho' willing, are not " by him allow'd to do him the Juſtice he deſerves; " which induces me to believe, if ever Man took a " Pleaſure in doing Good, he does; as alſo to think " him a proper Subject and Excuſe for (in the Name " of a great many more) my troubling you with this, " who am, with the greateſt Reſpect and Truth,

Your moſt Obedient,
Humble Servant,
Z. Y.

THE Friend of this Injured Practitioner in *Surgery* ſpeaks too Modeſtly, where he talks in his Letter concerning *Low Rank*, as if that were the Caſe here: When I reflect upon the vaſt and many Advantages ariſing to Mankind, from the Skill of a True Profeſſor of that Art, he appears ſo Uſeful a Member of the Common-Wealth, that he makes in my Eye no *inconſiderable* Figure among the moſt *conſiderable* Perſons, juſt as *Machaon* does among the chief Heroes in *Homer*. The very Perſon, this Letter relates to, far from meriting to be ſpoken ill of, deſerves, in my Opinion, that reſpect from every *Engliſh-man*, which the beſt of all Books requires to be paid to the Phyſician, if it was for nothing elſe, but having, not long ſince, preſerved the Life of a Member of a very noble Family, in which *Wiſdom* and *Eloquence* have been a long Time, as it were *Hereditary*, and appeared, more than once, the higheſt *Service* and *Ornament* to the Publick.

AS I am brought once more, unwillingly, to touch upon that hated Subject of *DETRACTION* I think I cannot do better, in order to deter from it thoſe People, whoſe Itch, in it, is not gone ſo far as to become a confirm'd Leproſie, cruſting over their whole Souls with its nauſeous Defilements, than to place before their Eyes a Picture of its Deformity, as it was very lively drawn by that Great Maſter *APELLES*, and Deſcribed by an excellent old Author.

" AT the Right-Hand, was drawn Sitting, a Man, " with long Ears, putting forth his Hand to " *DETRACTION*, who ſeem'd from afar off to come " towards him. About this Man ſtood two Women, " that is to ſay, *IGNORANCE* and *SUSPICION*: " On the other ſide came *DETRACTION*, a Woman " dreſs'd in great Pomp and Magnificence, but in a " mighty Paſſion of Anger, having her Aſpect, or " Look, like the very Fire. In her Left-Hand, ſhe " held a burning Torch; and, with her other Hand, " ſhe drew, by the Hair of his Head, a young Man, " who held up his Hands towards Heaven, calling " God and the Saints to Witneſs his Innocence: " With Her, came a Woman, Pale and Evil-favoured, " beholding the young Man attentively, like unto " one that had been conſumed with long Sick- " neſs, whom you might eaſily conjecture to be " *ENVY*.

" THEN there followed two other Women, " that made it their Buſineſs to deck and adorn " *DETRACTION*: The one was *TREASON*, the " other *FRAUD*: After, followed a Woman in a " Mourning Weed, Black and Ragged, and She was " called *REPENTANCE*, who turning her Back, " weeping, and ſore aſhamed, beheld *TRUTH*, who " then approached".

IT is thus, *APELLES* deſcribed *DETRACTION*, by which he himſelf was brought into extream Danger, having been falſely accuſed to King *Ptolomy* of *Egypt*, who, upon his refuting the Accuſation, ordered him as many Talents, as would amount to, among us, Twelve Thouſand Pounds Sterling, and that his Accuſer ſhould be his perpetual Bonds-man, by way of Amends.

IF ſome curious Engraver would form a Print upon this Model; the beſt Method would be for Perſons this way Injured, to purchaſe a Print, and fix it, like a Play-Bill, at the Door of any noted Offender in *DETRACTION*; after which, it ſhould be a ſtanding Rule for the Neighbourhood, never to believe any Report that came from that Quarter, whether in *Praiſe* or *Diſpraiſe* of any Body Living.

BY this Means, the *TONGUES* of *Evil-Speakers*, and the *PENS* of *Evil-Writers*, would ſoon be as *Uſeleſs*, and *Unregarded*, as the Stories, which are falſely bruited about by old Mother *HOLT*, or written by the *Unfair* Author of the *NEW UTOPIA*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

RID away with, *October* the 18th, 1724, from the *Three-Compaſſes*, in *Gravenor's-Mews*, near *New-Bond-Street*, by one *William Holdſworth*, who formerly worked with Mr. *William Thompſon*, at the Pit, at *Blackley-Dock* at *Halifax* in *Yorkſhire*, a Black Mare, full Aged, with a Star in her Forehead, two white Feet behind, a Swiſh-Tail, and Thick Mane, about Fourteen Hands high, wrung on the Near-Side; who was entruſted to look after the ſame. He is a middle-ſiz'd Man, about Fifty Years of Age, with dark brown, lank Hair, in a great Coat. Whoſoever gives Notice to Mr. *Joſeph Swann*, at the *Hoſpital-Gate* in *Weſt-Smithfield*, where She may be heard of, ſhall have One Guinea Reward; or if offered to Sale, pray ſtop Her and the Perſon, and ſend Word to the afore-mentioned Place, and you ſhall have the ſaid Reward.

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And where Compleat SETTS may be had.